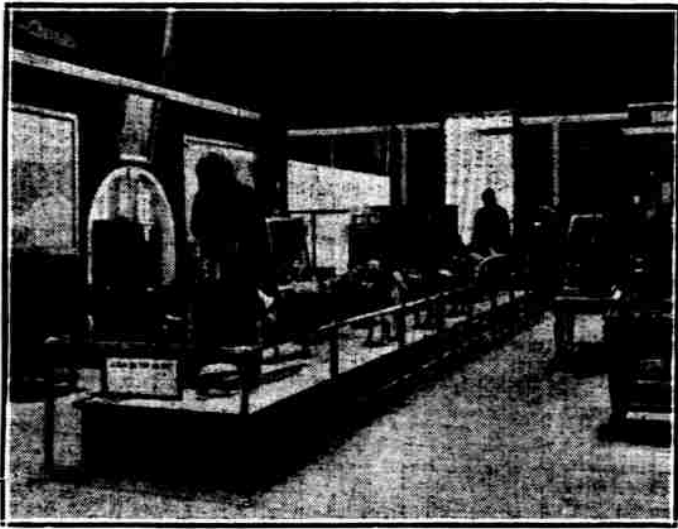


A CHAT WITH UNCLE SAM'S TRUSTED MAIL SERVICE MEN



Alaska dog team carrying mails.
(Post-office Department Museum.)

Learning from an official report that from March to December of last year, inclusive, a total of 2,531 persons were noted by the watchman on duty at the elevator of the third floor of the Post-office Department building in this city who came to visit the Post-office Department museum, The Washington Herald, through the courtesy of the curator of the museum, Mr. Slack, and especially through the good offices of the affable chief of the Post-office Department press bureau, Mr. Suter, has been enabled to gather some facts regarding that unique



FRANK H. HITCHCOCK,
Postmaster General.

and exceedingly interesting and instructive collection. Mr. Suter, who now diffuses all the news of the department, is no novice in the profession of journalism, having served on Southern papers before becoming Uncle Sam's press agent for the Post-office Department. In fact, Mr. Suter has published quite an interesting and exhaustive essay on the rare and unique things collected in the museum for the education of curious and patriotic Americans.

Of the many museums and special exhibits, says Mr. Suter, none has gained more in popularity at the National Capital than this museum of the Post-office Department. Only a few years ago this museum consisted of a few curios and odds and ends, assembled in a small room on the first floor of the department building on Pennsylvania avenue. Month after month the collection has been enlarged, until to-day it is one of the most interesting of all the numerous places for sightseers in Washington. This museum has grown to such an extent that the entire corridor of the third floor of the mammoth building is now necessary to display the many articles typical of the postal service and which are to be found in no other museum in the country. The number of visitors to this museum has increased by thousands. A conservative estimate, after a several days' tally, places the number of visitors annually at from 75,000 to 100,000.

The Famous Stamp Collection. Since the revival of the interest in postage stamp collecting many people have been known to make special trips to Washington just to get a glimpse of the great collection which is on exhibit in this museum. The display consists of a complete collection of postage stamps, postal cards, and stamped envelopes issued by the United States and all stamp-issuing countries of the world. The actual value of this stamp collection is probably more than \$200,000, but if they were ever put on sale in the open market the price they would command would be many times that amount, as the premium on the majority of them has increased to an enormous figure since they were issued.

A most interesting section of the exhibit is that devoted to the equipment used in handling the mails and a comprehensive exhibit of the mail transportation facilities, from the dog sled and the pony express to the newest type of the all-steel mail car now in use. Along with this most elaborate exhibit is the unusual collection of articles from the past, including the various operations of the postal service from the time a letter is mailed to the time of its final delivery. Among the miscellaneous collections are many very interesting things that every American is proud to see, such as the

original models of the ill-fated battle ship Maine, the Monitor, the Merrimack, first submarine torpedo boat, and the first mail-carrying ocean steamer. This exhibit is now more than a collection of odds and ends. It is an instructive exhibit, showing how letters are carried in this and other countries, and the collection of curios is confined to those that have come in through the division of dead letters. Many of the articles in the museum have been shown at the great expositions held in recent years. It may be said that when a large exposition is contemplated this is one of the first of the government exhibits the managers want to draw on. At all expositions where the Post-office Department has displayed this exhibit it has been considered one of the leading features of the occasion.

The Old Stage Coach. Many of the articles exhibited in this remarkable exhibit are valuable from a historical standpoint. For instance, there is the old stage coach which carried mail in Montana. It saw stirring times in its day and many celebrated people have ridden on it. In 1877 it was captured by Indians, only to be retaken after a fierce fight by Gen. Howard. In that same year Gen. Sherman used the coach while on his tour of inspection of the distance between Fort Ellis and Helena, 108 miles, being covered on that occasion in eight hours. Gen. Garfield also made use of the old conveyance before he became



THEODORE L. WEED,
Chief Clerk, Post Office, Secretary Treasury, Postal Savings Bank System.

came President, as did his successor, President Arthur. A model of the first steam vessel to carry the United States mails across the Atlantic is to be seen here. The name of this vessel was the Southern, and before it made its initial voyage but one steamer had made the trip across the Atlantic. It is to be seen here. The vessel only used her paddles part of the way, they being contrived so they could be taken down when desired.

Among the varieties of things included among the dead-letter collection is a genuine "infernal machine." It was directed to Capt. Eulate, of the Spanish man-of-war Vizcaya, at the time that vessel was lying outside of New York, just before war was declared with Spain. Extra precautions being taken by the Post-office Department, the bomb never reached the Spanish captain. Fearing such an attack, the postal officials advised Capt. Eulate not to receive any mail until it had first passed through the hands of an expert. The captain assented, and the bomb was detected before it reached him.

One of the cases contains an envelope in which is inclosed a lock of Charles Guiteau's hair. It was sent by the assassin of President Garfield in a letter addressed to a young lady in Baltimore. In the letter Guiteau begged the young lady to aid him in securing funds for his trial. At the time the letter was sent the lady was traveling abroad. No address being left, it was returned to the Dead-letter office.

Of the many unusual things to be seen in this museum there are none more interesting and pathetic than the story of the little Scotch terrier, Owey, whose remains are mounted and given a prominent place in the exhibit with his harness and tags. The story of little Owey has been told, retold, and written about many times in years gone by, but it should be told again for those not familiar with it, and again as a happy reminder to those that once read of this dog's interesting career.

In 1882 in the post-office of Albany, N. Y., a little Scotch terrier was found curled up, fast asleep, on top of some mail bags, where it had taken refuge from the cold. The mail clerks took pity on him and adopted him, feeding and housing him from the weather. Quite frequently they would pat his head and say, "Who is your owner?" and in this way he derived his name. One day he followed the wagon to the depot and boarded the cars with the mail. He was unobserved until after the train had started, when he was discovered by postal clerks, discovering his presence, took charge of him and sent him back to Albany. Having learned the trick, he made frequent trips with the mail, always returning to Albany, where his patrons never knew where he had been.

The Much-traveled Dog. Thinking it would be interesting to know where he went, the employees of the office gave him a tag inscribed "Owey, Albany Post-office, Albany, N. Y.," attaching a card thereto requesting the postal clerks to affix tags to show where he had been. His travels soon became so extensive, however, that the tag grew burdensome, so when passing through Washington on one of his transcontinental tours Postmaster General Wainwright presented him with a set of harness, from which the tags of all sorts and descriptions were suspended. He traveled from one place to another, always following the mail. For eleven years he kept this up, visiting Europe and Asia, as well as traveling throughout the United States and Canada. The Mikado of Japan presented him with a silver medal, on one side of which was the national coat-of-arms.

Owey met his fate at Toledo, Ohio, when an attempt was made to have his picture taken. He was chained in the basement of the post-office to await the arrival of the photographer. At such an indignity Owey bristled up and barked furiously. A clerk in the post-office endeavored to quiet him and received a bite in his hand. He spread the report that Owey was mad, and the postmaster summoned a policeman, who shot him, thus ending the career of the famous little dog.

As to Postal Savings Banks. "This is Mr. Weed," said Mr. Suter, as the latter was ready to take his leave after the pleasant talk about the Post-office museum. Mr. Weed is the chief clerk of the Post-office Department, but what has brought him still more in the public eye is the fact that he is the secretary of the board of trustees of the postal savings bank system, which recently has been established throughout the United States. Mr. Weed looks what he is, an exceptionally busy man, who, while most af-

table to callers, yet knows that he has to husband every moment, not only during office hours, but more often far into the night. This introduction caused the talk to swerve to the newly opened savings banks, and The Washington Herald thus was enabled to learn the following respecting the rules and regulations governing this new departure in the Post-office Department:

At present there are but forty-six postal savings banks in operation, but their number is to be increased gradually as soon as the trustees have satisfied themselves as to the workings of the plan. **Age Limit of Depositors.**—Under the terms of the act deposits may be made by any person of the age of ten years or over and by a married woman. Deposits may be made by children of the proper age in their own name and free from any control or interference by parents; and the same is equally true in the case of a married woman, whose account shall be free from any control or interference by her husband.

The law expressly forbids any person from having more than one account in his or her own right, and any violation of the spirit of this provision will subject the offender or the transgressor to penalty. **Corporations, Societies, &c.**—Only the accounts of individuals will be accepted by postmasters. Corporations, societies, and the like will not be accepted as depositors. The regulations are mandatory and require the signature of the individual to be left with the postmaster at



R. S. SHARP,
Chief Inspector, Post-office Department.

the time the deposit is made, as well as on its withdrawal. **Certificates of Deposit.**—Certificates of deposit will be issued in various denominations, running from \$1 to \$100. They will be issued in duplicate, the original going to the depositor and the duplicate to the files of the depository. The duplicate must bear the name of the depositor, who is expected to carefully scrutinize it before signing to see that it is drawn for the proper amount.

Limitation as to Deposits.—At least \$1, or a larger amount in multiples thereof, must be deposited before an account can be opened; but no one will be permitted to deposit more than \$100 in any one calendar month. The balance to the credit of any one person shall never be allowed to exceed \$500, exclusive of accumulated interest. In order that smaller amounts may be accumulated for deposit, any person may purchase for 10 cents from any depository office a postal savings card, to which may be attached specially prepared ad-



The old stage coach.
(Post-office Department Museum.)

hesive stamps which have been especially designed for the purpose and are known as "postal savings stamps," and when the stamps so attached amount to \$1, including the 10-cent postal savings card, the same may be presented as a deposit for opening an account. This permission has been granted to encourage thrift among the poor and to teach school children the habit of saving.

Withdrawals.—When a depositor wishes to withdraw any part of his account he must present certificates equal to the sum he wishes to obtain, and the surrendered certificates must have been indorsed on the back and the signature must correspond with that on the filed duplicate before the money will be paid. Certificates are nonnegotiable and non-transferable and are worthless in the possession of any other than their lawful owners.

Partial Withdrawals.—While it is hoped that depositors with the postal savings system will belong to the savings class who desire to leave their money on deposit for long periods for interest purposes, provision has been made to accommodate those who wish to withdraw a portion of their account so that interest will be lost only on the amount withdrawn. As an illustration, a depositor with a \$100 certificate issued on January 1 who wishes to draw down \$50 on July 1 would surrender his \$100 certificate and receive in return \$50 in cash and a new certificate for \$50 antedated to show that it had been drawing interest from January 1.

Proxy Withdrawals.—In order to provide for cases of emergency and to accommodate sick or injured depositors, a system has been provided whereby withdrawals by proxy can be made, subject, of course, to most careful regulations. Blanks will be furnished by postmasters which will contain complete instructions on the subject.

Interest.—Interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum will be allowed on all deposits, but interest only begins to run from the first business day of the month, so that deposits made after such time in any one month cannot begin to draw interest until the first day of the next succeeding month. In order that the most simple-minded may clearly understand the amount of interest due them at the end of one year or a given number of months, a table has been printed on the

back of each certificate showing in simple form the amount of interest that will accrue annually.

Bond Conversion.—One of the most attractive features of the system, of which advantage will be taken by many, is the opportunity to convert their funds, after they have been on deposit a given time, into government bonds. These bonds will be issued in small denominations of \$20, \$50, \$100, and a larger denomination of \$500, and will bear interest at the rate of 2½ per cent per annum. They will be both registered and coupon bonds. Post-



JESSE L. SUTER,
Newspaper representative, Post-office Department.

masters will be supplied with blank forms on which depositors can make the necessary application for bonds. Depositors will be restricted in their operations to one particular office, where the one account to which they are entitled must be kept. If for any reason they wish to open an account at another office in the same city, they may do so by closing out their account at the first office and starting an entirely new transaction in the second office.

URGES MOUNTAIN LAUREL FOR NATIONAL FLOWER

Henry Turner Bailey, in his address before the General Federation of Women's Clubs at Cincinnati, said:

"Let us enlist every woman in the country in the interest of a national flower of the United States. Old Egypt has its lotus, Japan has its chrysanthemum, the France of the Middle Ages and the France of to-day has its fleur-de-lis. England has its rose, Ireland has its shamrock, and we have—nothing! There have been various attempts to give us a national flower. Some have advocated the daisy (but many farmers hate the white weed); some say the golden rod (but farmers hate that, too, in some sections of our country); some one said columbine—beautiful but frail. Are such as these fit for a national flower? No. We cannot have anything unless it be worthy."

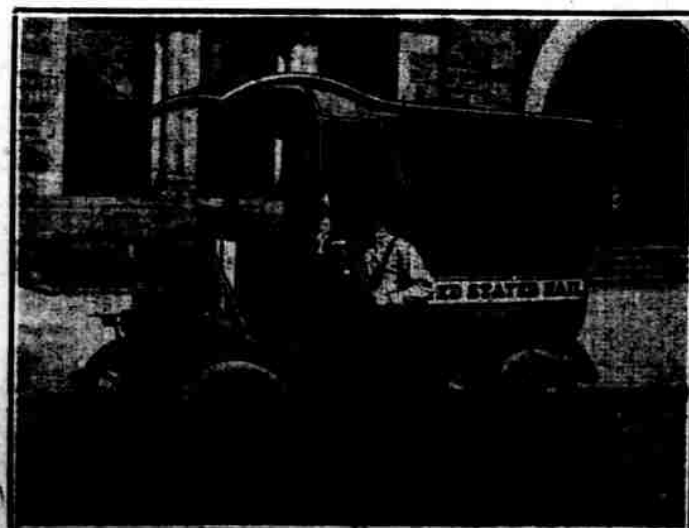
"I am going to suggest the mountain laurel, which grows in the thirteen original States, as the national flower. First, because it is a hardwood plant and lasts year after year. In favored places it becomes a tree, but, like liberty, it is a hardy thing, and will persist under the most adverse conditions. It is ever green. There is another reason why it is appropriate to us in America. It is colored with complimentary colors, the red and the green, and therefore it unites the extremes of colors as we unite here in America various extremes. The flowers are white and red, two of the colors of our flag. And the third color, green, is blue warmed by the addition of a little yellow (the symbol of wisdom), so that

blue (truth) becomes green, the symbol of fruitfulness. Again, therefore, the colors are especially appropriate for us in America. Its appropriateness is still more evident when you remember that the blossoms of the laurel are always in heads—"E pluribus unum." Some flowers depend on the wind to fertilize them; some depend on insects, but the laurel is peculiarly American; it fertilizes itself by means of a mechanical device; it has its own original invention for doing its work. Isn't that American?"

"The most important thing with regard to a national flower is that the flower shall be easily translatable into the language of art. You must have a flower that you can use in design. The laurel is such a flower. There is a fine movement in its lines of growth. To begin with, it always has good curves, forceful curves, in its elements, which may be utilized in all sorts of decorations. You will have to hunt the vegetable kingdom through to find a more graceful form than that of the laurel leaf. It is always beautiful, even after it withers or is dead, for the leaves of evergreen trees do die in turn, as you know. When you come to the flower itself, there is simply no end to the beauty of it, and when the fruit is ripe, lo and behold, it splits into a five-pointed star."

Glad New Year's Thought.

From the Tokyo Capital. It would be a happier world if the statesmen would resolve on New Year's Day to pay space rates for their advertising.



Up-to-date service.
(Post-office Department Museum.)

KAISER'S ANTI-RUSSIAN PLAN

By EX-ATTACHE.

(Copyright, 1911, by the Brentwood Company.) Russia's leading statesmen are said to dread the meetings between the Kaiser and the Kakser. The latter, when he sets himself out to please, can render himself most winning, and even those prejudiced against him find it difficult to resist his magnetism. That Nicholas succumbs to a measure to this fascination when in the company of his cousin William is an established fact. But the influence is rarely of a lasting character.

Therefore it is wrong to attribute undue importance to the stories asserting that during the Muscovite ruler's recent stay at Potsdam, an understanding was reached which deals a death blow to the triple entente which has existed between England, France, and Russia ever since his memorable meeting with Edward VII at Reval, some two and a half years ago. Reports to this effect emanate from Berlin, and not from St. Petersburg, and if Gabriel Hanotaux, former minister of foreign affairs of France, has treated with a certain degree of importance in his last article in the Paris Revue the domadire, it is rather for the purpose of impressing upon France, England, and Russia the necessity of vigilance against the persistent endeavors on the part of Germany to break up the triple alliance by alienating one or the other of the powers concerned in its allies.

The Chancellor Is Mysterious.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's reference in the Reichstag to the visit of Nicholas was so mysteriously worded as to convey the impression that Germany's relations with Russia had been notably strengthened at the expense of the triple entente; and the official inspired press affected to find additional confirmation for their stories in Russia's recent dismantling and razing of certain forts along her western frontier, and in her withdrawal from the latter of the bulk of the armies which she had maintained there. But this move had been determined upon more than a year ago, not by reason of any confidence in the Kaiser's friendship, but because it was feared that the Russian advanced posts in Poland near the frontier might become objects of learning or enveloping movement on the part of the German forces in the event of war.

Nor has any corroboration been received yet of the tales printed by the German newspapers to the effect that the Kaiser had confided to the Krupp works of furnishing all the armor plate and ordnance for the new Russian war ships. Equally false have proved the allegations that the Kaiser had renewed the former friendly relations between the courts of St. Petersburg and of Vienna, and to a renewal of the three-emperors alliance negotiated by Prince Bismarck, and which proved the triple alliance between Germany, Austria, and Italy.

That very powerful forces have been brought to bear against Count Aehrenthal, especially from Berlin, to bring about his downfall, is undeniable. That Russia is anxious to bring about the downfall of Aehrenthal is no secret. There is no foreign statesman who is so cordially detested at St. Petersburg, where he spent nearly a quarter of a century in various diplomatic capacities. But there is every reason to believe that the Kaiser's position is not so strong as even that he enjoys the confidence not only of his sovereign, but also of his principal patron, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who does not permit any advantage to escape him, and who has just rejected an invitation to a shooting party on the Kaiser's great game

SAILING CARS.

Consult Thomas H. Norton of Chemnitz furnishes the following information concerning the German invention of a sailing vehicle for use on highways:

With the increased study of the wind as a direct factor in aiding locomotion in the air, inventors have taken up again the problem of utilizing the wind for transportation by land. It is true that early experiments with horse-drawn vehicles included sail wagons as well as steam wagons, but both at the time failed to promise any measure of practical utility.

In these days of light construction, rubber tires, ball bearings and, above all, solid roads, the conditions are totally changed. A German inventor has perfected and patented a simple sail vehicle which makes fair progress over good roads and across sandy stretches, such as a sea beach. The dominating features in the construction are lightness and effective steering facilities.

The present form is a light framework supporting a saddle and a mast for the sail, and resting upon four wheels, one of which is on either side and one before and one behind. The two latter are of a larger diameter than the former, and all are far apart, as is the practice with automobile wheels.

The chief peculiarity in the device is the connection of the wheels with one another. The rear wheel and the right side wheel are rigidly connected together, and the same is the case with the front wheel and the left side wheel. The two connecting bars are joined with each other by means of an axle or crossbar, the attachment at each end being of a hinged type.

A person sitting on the saddle rests his feet on this transverse axle, and by suitable pressure can alter at once the relation of the wheels to the main axis of the framework. This arrangement furthermore leaves his hands completely free for adjusting the position of the sail or using a brake. The whole device has a certain lightness and elegance which will appeal probably at first to the lover of sport.

preserves in Poland, in a manner calculated to affront the members of the house of Romanoff, who, at the instance of Emperor William, were to have been his hosts.

Stress has been laid in Berlin on the fact that an understanding had been reached between the Kaiser and the Kakser on the subject of Persia, which provided not only for the concession of great economic advantages to Germany in the land of the Shah, but also for the extension of the Baghdad Railroad to Persia and the support of Germany's pretensions for its control, to which France is opposed, and which England cannot tolerate. But the principal opponents of this scheme are the Russians themselves.

But it is not only in Persia that Russian manufacturers regard Germany as the enemy. The feeling prevails in Russia itself, and among all classes of the population. Much of this animosity arises from the fact that throughout the nineteenth century and during the first half of the twentieth century many of the principal instruments of the arbitrary rule of the Russian Crown were German. Peter the Great and his successors invited thousands of German colonists to settle in Russia, partly with the idea of their developing the agricultural and industrial resources of the country and partly in the hope that their example might tend to civilize the moujik, and imbue him with principles of industry and thrift, cleanliness and sobriety.

Intense Hatred of Germans. The hatred of the German for the last 200 years has been so intense in Russia that it is idle to place any reliance upon any treaty that may be negotiated between the governments of St. Petersburg and of Berlin. Popular sentiment is becoming more and more of a potent factor in determining the action of the Russian Crown.

No one is more aware of this than Stolypin, who, despite all court intrigues, and the enmity of all the reactionary element of the imperial family, of the nobility, and of the bureaucracy, thanks to the support of the Emperor, and above all, through the backing of popular sentiment, has been able to maintain himself in the position of prime minister. Stolypin distrusts the Kaiser, makes no concealment whatever of the fact, and unlike Count Witte, who yielded to Emperor Nicholas, has always restated the advances of the Hohenzollern, and pointedly kept out of his way. No one is more thoroughly in touch with the masses of the Russian people. He has learned by these means to know the extent to which his countrymen detest the Germans, and it is in consequence thereof that just before the New Year he sent to the Duma a law preventing any persons, excepting Slavs, from owning land in Volhynia, Podolia, and Kiev, the three largest western provinces of the empire. Accompanying the bill was a memorandum addressed to the national legislature, in which the prime minister severely arraigns the German settlers of those provinces, and also the policy of his predecessors who aided their immigration to Russia.

BRIDESMAIDS PASSING AS WEDDING FEATURE

"A happy bride makes a happy bride," says Tennyson, but there seems to be a prospect that in the near future there will be no bridesmaids of any kind, either happy or unhappy. An enterprising young bride the other week swore bridesmaids in favor of what she called a "best girl," and possibly this example may be emulated by other brides in days to come.

In Russia, of course, the "best man" attends on the bride, and he is chosen by the bride herself, his duties including holding her gloves in church when she uncovers her hand to exchange rings with her future husband, distributing money to the poor, who say they will pray for her, collecting money for the musicians when the dancing is at an end, and so on.

It is not at all likely, however, that the American bride will ever look with favor upon a "best man" in personal attendance upon herself. The idea of a "best girl," however, has much to commend it. The bridegrooms are possessed of illimitable wealth, and the idea of having to bestow expensive gifts of jewelry on half a dozen fastidious maidens is almost enough to deter the poor man from marrying the maiden of his choice.

Probably even the wealthy bridegroom will be glad to be relieved from the responsibility of purchasing presents for young ladies in whom he is possibly not in the least interested.

Moreover, the bride shines with a greater luster when she is attended by only one. In the multitude of magnificent bridesmaids the central figure of the occasion is apt to be overshadowed, and this is more particularly true when the bridesmaids are big and bouncing, and the bride petite and sprituelle.

The select of a "best girl" might also prevent a good deal of heart burning and jealousy, for the choice would naturally fall on the bride's best beloved friend. When several maidens are chosen there will almost certainly be some among the bride's acquaintances who will think they have been neglected and overlooked. The bride will also be better looked after by one than by a cortege. The girl will be on her mettle, and she will realize that upon her and her alone rests the responsibility of seeing that the minor matters of the marriage ceremony pass off "without a hitch."

There is more possibility of romance in the case of a best man and a best girl. It would seem fitting somehow that the two thus chosen for a romantic office should themselves be drawn altarward. When there are two bridesmaids, the excellences of particular girls are not so obviously seen, and so the "best man" goes his way "fascy free."

It must be admitted, however, that if bridesmaids go out of fashion it will be rather hard on shopkeepers, tailors, dressmakers, milliners and jewelers. The more bridesmaids the better, from their point of view.



At the beginning of the run.
(Post-office Department Museum.)